

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Tuesday, May 11, 2004.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mrs. Walrath of Stow in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

Eternal God, we pause for a moment of personal reflection and personal prayer to talk to and with You about all matters — human, material and spiritual. In meeting our daily schedules and personal responsibilities, we, at time, forget to think about our personal goals, ideals, as well as life's purpose and other basic issues. In taking up each day's challenges, inspire us to do what is most noble, most needed, most relevant and most ethical. As we face each moment of the day, may Your gift of peace, which insures personal happiness, fill our hearts and minds and clarify our outlook on life.

Prayer.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

At the request of the Chair (Mrs. Walrath), the members, guests and employees joined with her in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Messrs. Scibak of South Hadley, Kocot of Northampton, Kulik of Worthington and Wagner of Chicopee) memorializing the Congress of the United States to make the Republic of Poland eligible for the United States Department of State's Visa Waiver Program, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Republic of
Poland.

Mr. Miceli of Wilmington, for the committee on Rules, then reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of William G. Greene, Jr., and other members of the General Court relative to oil spill prevention and response in Buzzards Bay and other harbors and bays of the Commonwealth. To the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Oil spill
prevention.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of James B. Leary and other members of the General Court for legislation to designate a certain bridge

Worcester,
Bohigian
Bridge.

in the city of Worcester as the Representative Robert J. Bohigian Bridge. To the committee on Transportation.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Greene of Billerica, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Medicare
drug
benefits.

By Mr. Keenan of Southwick, for the committee on Medicaid, that the Bill assisting elders and the disabled in accessing transitional assistance program Medicare drug benefits (House, No. 4714) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Rogers of Norwood, for said committee, reported that the bill ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mr. Kujawski of Webster, for said committee, reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time, its title having been changed by said committee to read: "An Act relative to Medicare drug benefits."

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Jones of North Reading and other members of the House moved that it be amended in section 2, in line 00, by striking out the word "October" and inserting in place thereof the word "November"; in line 00, by striking out the words "the governor should request that Congress" and inserting in place thereof the words "Congress should be requested to"; and in line 00, by striking out the word "September" and inserting in place thereof the word "October".

The amendments were adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4714, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Bill
re-enacted.

The engrossed Bill relative to the taxation of certain property in the town of Belmont (see House, No. 3980, amended) (which originated in the House) (which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be re-enacted, in its amended form; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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The engrossed Bill relative to parking fines in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 4210, amended) (which originated in the House) (which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed

to be re-enacted, in its amended form; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Lunenburg to establish a capital improvement trust fund and a bond and note proceeds investment fund (see Senate, No. 1144, amended); and

Bills
enacted.

Relative to the Dedham-Westwood Water District (see Senate, No. 1965, changed);

(Which severally originated in the Senate);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Joseph Coleman, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (House, No. 2270) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading), reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

House bills

Addressing the siting of electric transmission in Massachusetts (House, No. 4432); and

Second
reading
bills.

Relative to creditable service for ambulance paramedics in the town of Billerica (House, No. 4466);

Severally were read a second time; and they were ordered to a third reading.

Recess.

At five minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Chair (Mrs. Walrath of Stow) declared a recess until half past twelve o'clock; and at that time the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Recess.

Paper from the Senate.

The House Bill assisting elders and the disabled in accessing transitional assistance program Medicare drug benefits (House, No. 4714) came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document number 4716.

Medicare
drug
benefits.

Under suspension of Rule 35, on motion of Mr. Lepper of Attleboro, the amendment (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill assisting elders and the disabled in accessing transitional assistance program Medicare drug benefits (see House,

Medicare
drug
benefits.

No. 4714, amended), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 2 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill
enacted.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Finneran of Boston,—

Next sitting
and printing
of Calendar.

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at a quarter before one o'clock P.M.; and that, notwithstanding the provisions of House Rule 12, the Clerk be authorized to dispense with the printing of a Calendar for said sitting.

At twenty-eight minutes before two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Lepper of Attleboro (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at a quarter before one o'clock P.M.